



Climate Action Strathaven (CAS) Annual General Meeting

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Climate Action Strathaven will be held at 19.00 on Wednesday 13th April 2022, in the Eco Hub, 5 Green Street, Strathaven.

This meeting is open to the public and will be followed by a Q&A session for members of the public.

Agenda

7.00 – 7.15pm

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of Previous AGM – Appendix 1 (attached)
4. Chair's Report – Appendix 2 (attached)
5. Treasurer's Report – Appendix 3 (attached – accounts to be available at the meeting)
6. Governance Arrangements
 - 6.1 Membership of Board
 - Tom Barbour, Chair
 - Alastair Brown, Treasurer
 - Martin Hill, Secretary
 - Elsbeth Wilson, Trustee
 - Rachael Wakefield, Trustee

- 6.2 Role of Treasurer
- 6.3 Retirement
Martin Hill
- 6.4 Election of New Trustee
Ian Harley

7. Any other Competent Business

8. Closure of Formal AGM

7.15 – 8.00pm

Questions from Members of the Public

Martin F Hill
Secretary
26th March 2022

Climate Action Strathaven (CAS)

Notes of the First Annual General Meeting of the Board of Trustees held at 18.15 on 24th February 2021, by Zoom

Present: Tom Barbour, Chair

Alastair Brown, Treasurer

Martin Hill, Secretary

Elsbeth Wilson, Trustee

1. Welcome

1.1 Tom welcomed members and supporters to the first AGM of Climate Action Strathaven, for the year ending 31st December 2020. He outlined the meeting procedure, that the Trustees would conduct the business set out in the published agenda and that the formal meeting would immediately be followed by a question and answer session open to supporters and other members of the public.

2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 Given the presence of all four Trustees, there were no apologies for absence to record.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 Tom began by referring to 2020 as a year of unprecedented upheaval and disturbance around the world. Scientists predict however, that unless we act quickly, the world faces many similar years through climate change. This, he reminded us, was why Climate Action Strathaven (CAS) had been set up and was working at speed to combat what we see as a lack of awareness and urgent action by governments in Edinburgh, London and around the world.

3.2 Action brings hope, and hope brings change, which is why we want to bring the people of Strathaven together to demand greater action from our politicians. Tom pointed out that CAS is implementing projects that should not only reduce emissions locally but inspire and influence other communities.

3.3 He went on to report that, in this our first full year, the majority of our activities centred around transport initiatives, and so it will continue in early 2021. He then summarised the activities and achievements of CAS in 2020, including: -

- In January, CAS was formally established and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with a formal constitution; we also conducted our first community survey that month, which gave us a useful benchmark on climate attitudes.

- In February CAS held its first (and because of Covid restrictions, last!) 'Green Drinks' at the Weavers, an opportunity to gather and meet openly and informally, to be reinstated once lockdown is lifted; we also held a climate protest as part of the Friday's for Future, attracting over 100 people, including Lisa Cameron M.P. and Claudia Beamish M.S.P.; also in February we held a car survey and counted 2,083 cars leaving Strathaven in a 3 hour period.
- In May we undertook a Cycling attitudes survey.
- In July, we had opened the pop-up cycle repair facility at the Town Mill and, since then, have repaired over 350 bikes. This gave us another network of local supporters, who again have stuck with us. In thanking our mechanics, Tom also thanked our colleagues at the Town Mill, which is the first of our partnerships with another local organisation – and they have been very receptive, accommodating, and innovative, with the promise of much more there. Tom also acknowledged our funders – Kype Muir Community Windfarm Fund, Sandford & Avondale/Banks Renewables, Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Cooperative, Scottish Government and Cycling UK Scotland for making this project such a success.
- In August we undertook our "Say No to +3C campaign", another public demonstration (whilst observing rules on social distancing), following which our banner was able to be left at the Castle for a period of 8 days.
- In September, we published 'Sustainable Strathaven - A Manifesto', setting out our ambitions towards Strathaven becoming a leader in environmental sustainability and including a ten-point action plan to deliver a Sustainable Strathaven.
- In October we undertook the Strathaven Growers and allotments survey, and that has allowed us to work with others on developing these initiatives. Also in October we started to link in with the developing COP26 initiatives of other organisations, thanks to a number of our supporters.
- In November we acquired an e-Cargo bike, thanks to funding from the Energy Saving Trust, Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government. Also that month, we undertook a series of thermal imaging studies on a sample of houses around Strathaven. We then held Zoom feedback sessions with locals, in conjunction with Home Energy Scotland.

3.4 Tom then proceeded to give a brief update on post-year end activities:-

- In January we took delivery of our first electric car, a Renault Zoe, thanks to funding from the Climate Change Asset Fund and the Scottish Government, with a view to setting up the Strathaven Car Club.
- In February we picked up the keys for the vacant shop at 5 Green Street, and were awarded funding to employ 1.5 FTE to run the Hub, and more broadly deliver the aims of the manifesto. This was made possible thanks

to funding from Smarter Choices Smarter Places, a Paths for All programme funded by Transport Scotland.

- At the start of 2021, Elspeth took over as our Media press lead and has secured more regular coverage, including a syndicated newspaper interview scheduled for the coming week, and through her considerable local networks continues to link CAS with other individuals and groups.

3.5 Tom emphasised that 2021 was a year of huge opportunity for CAS, Strathaven and for Scotland, particularly with COP26 around the corner in November.

3.6 Tom concluded his report by thanking his fellow Trustees for all their hard work, innovation, lip-biting, tolerance and humour, as well as the many and growing number of supporters who all help to make CAS an active and dynamic community initiative.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 Alastair presented his Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts covering the first 11 months of the Charity's operation, to 31st December 2020

4.2 He said that our first year as an organisation had proven to be challenging and exciting in equal measure. We had taken on opportunities and faced difficulties that we did not even dream of when we first came together in Sept 2019 and became a fully functioning charity in January 2020.

4.3 He believed that we had mastered all of this to the best of our abilities as a group and through dint of hard work, determination and enthusiasm the Charity finds itself in a reasonable position financially to take on 2021 with good heart. There was, he said, positive anticipation of what more can be done to help improve the environment for the people of Strathaven and surroundings whilst endeavouring to influence the wider world's approach to the climate change threats we all face.

4.4 Alastair explained that while our main projects this year had mostly centred around cycling with "Re-Cycling Strathaven" leading the way, other projects had been initiated but had not yet come to fruition. This meant that the first set of accounts was basic, with limited types of income and expense so far.

4.5 He said that CAS had been successful in attracting grant funding from several sources. With many other funding applications now in progress and many more exciting projects coming to fruition in the next months, next year's accounts will be considerably more complex than this year's. However with the skills and competences within the CAS team the production of these will developed commensurately.

4.6 Alastair concluded by summarising that with income totalling £9,551.71 and expenditure of £7,076.81, the year ended with a surplus of £2,478.90.

4.7 The Accounts, which had been circulated to Trustees in advance, were received and approved by the Board.

5. Membership of the Board

5.1 Martin explained that, in accordance with clause 18 of the Constitution, two members were due to retire from office. However, in accordance with clause 22, all members had indicated that they wished to be re-elected and, in the absence of any resolution to the contrary, it was agreed that the current office bearers would continue for a further year:-

Tom Barbour, Chair

Alastair Brown, Treasurer

Martin Hill, Secretary

5.2 In accordance with clause 17 of the Constitution, a resolution was proposed and approved unanimously to appoint Rachael Wakefield as the fifth Trustee to membership of CAS and to the Board.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 With no other competent business raised, the meeting was closed at 18.40. This was immediately followed by a question and answer session and a meeting with Lisa Cameron SNP MP for Clydesdale

SignedChair

Date.....



Climate Action Strathaven (CAS)

Year ended 2021

Chairman's Report

The level of climate change that we are leaving for our children is predicted worse now than it was a year ago. If nothing significant changes, a rise of around 3.0 C by 2100 is likely, and with it further extensive biodiversity loss.

November's COP Conference in Glasgow failed to deliver any meaningful agreements, and CO2 levels continue to rise.

And yet despite these clear and constant warnings from scientists, governments in Edinburgh, London and around the world fail to take meaningful action, still fail to 'tell the truth.' Preferring instead to set 'world leading' but overly distant targets for 2045 & 2050.

Against that backdrop, the relative good or bad performance of Climate Action Strathaven in 2021 may be considered to have little meaning. What is the point of celebrating an increase in walking in Strathaven, if internal flights in the US rose by 10.0% , and coal burning in China rose by double digit percentages?

And yet, I attach great meaning to what we are doing in Strathaven.

Strathaven has 0.1% of Scotland's population, and Scotland has 0.1% of the world's population. If we can influence Scotland (and we can), then Scotland can influence the world.

We're not special in CAS, we're just a group of locals, but we realise we've got nothing to lose, and everything to gain.

Based on the evidence of history, it will be action by communities and individuals that result in change. Either directly, or by increasing pressure on governments to act. Most likely both. "Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

During the year, we were incredibly lucky to be able to recruit Arthur & Sarah as our full time project workers. Their enthusiasm, compassion, knowledge and

ability has energised and driven forward CAS in a way that we could not have imagined a year ago. And I would like to extend my thanks to them, both personally and on behalf of CAS.

Obtaining the premises at 5 Green Street has also literally given us a shop window in the centre of the Strathaven community, and the opportunity to engage with locals on a daily basis.

We have extended our e-bike and Strathaven Car Club fleet, and acquired an increasing array of ingenious cargo bikes. Our bike repair shop at the Town Mill led by Kenny, continues to flourish, working energetically every Saturday morning from 9am – 1pm - returning bikes, and their riders to the road, sometimes for the first time in years.

During 2022 we aim to increase the surplus that we derive from all these trading activities, as we seek to create a charity that is sustainable in that it generates a large proportion, if not all of the income it needs to support its operations from its own activities.

Al continues to lead on the active travel front, engaging with local authority, community council and local cycling groups – to make Strathaven area a more pleasant, practical and safe place to travel around on a bike.

We were delighted in February 2022 to welcome Mick to the team, to lead the Community Fridge project which is about to launch. This is an exciting development in the area of minimising food waste. In April we look forward to welcoming Tommy, who will lead on the Cargo Bike delivery project.

As we enter 2022, delivery of the Glasgow Bus project and Retrofit Strathaven are tantalizingly close. A lot of ground work has been done, but project launch for both frustratingly continues to slip towards the summer.

Robert & Dylan have brought new enthusiasm, skill and insight to the Local Energy Plan (LEP), and we expect to hear and deliver a lot more of the LEP during 2022.

If 2021 was a year of project inputs - building capacity and developing project plans - then 2022 must be the year of delivery. We now have a fantastic platform from which to deliver on the aims set out in our Manifesto, playing our part to reduce the burning of fossil fuels.

Our original aims were to highlight to the people of Strathaven the reality of the climate crisis, to be a catalyst for the community to demand action from governments, and to establish a portfolio of carbon reducing projects which both reduce fossil fuel use, and make life better for locals. These remain the fundamental aims of the charity today.

I'd like to thank all our funders during the year, who have helped us deliver on our existing projects, and given us the capital and confidence to develop new projects - you will hear more in our Treasurer's report. I'd especially like to

thank our Trustee group, our volunteer group, and the community in Strathaven who have supported us, as we seek to support all of us.

Finally, I am sorry to be saying farewell tonight to Martin, who is stepping down as a Trustee, but not I hope as a valuable contributor to the overall thinking behind CAS. Thank you Martin, for your invaluable input over the past 2 and a half years. I'd also like to especially thank Alastair for his phenomenal work as Treasurer and across our whole range of our activities, as he moves across to take up the Secretary role vacated by Martin. And to welcome Ian, who will join Rachael and Else in our Trustee group, setting and monitoring the strategic direction of the charity. These proposed changes subject to ratification at tonight's meeting.

This is a very exciting and important time to be involved in a community group such as CAS. We hope if you live in the Strathaven area, you will consider joining and supporting us, or joining one of the many similar groups that are emerging across Scotland.

Tom Barbour

Chair

13 April 2022



Treasurer's Report - 2021

Overview

Our second year as an organisation has proven to be even more challenging and exciting than our first year. We have employed full and part time project workers to drive all aspects of our operations forward with renewed spirit.

We have taken on the lease of the building housing Strathaven's PO and turned it into a vibrant centre for our and related organisation operations.

Our ever popular Re-Cycling Strathaven initiative is now coupled to the implementation of many more of the projects framed by our manifesto - including CAS' - eCargo Bike operations (the easiest way to move goods around our crowded thoroughfares; eBike rental fleet (so many people have used this); Car Club (with 3 vehicles bringing excellent visibility and revenue to the organisation whilst reducing the numbers of cars on the roads); commenced trials for the Glasgow-Strathaven bus service (reducing the number of car journeys required) ; commenced development of the Community Fridge project (bringing assistance to those who need it and reducing waste); expanded our network of volunteers (and the more the merrier is required) and lobbied our elected officials with maximum focus to ensure the urgency of reducing our planet's carbon footprint is not lost in the welter of other priorities) – all these existing and new projects reduced Strathaven's Carbon footprint and expanded the good people's knowledge of the impact of climate damage and how we can mitigate it together – two of our key aims as people and as an organisation.

To allow us to perform the above miracles we continue to be highly successful in securing grants and funding from an ever-wider variety of sources – this expansion of vision mainly brought to us via the tireless effort of our two project workers.

Our second set of accounts is on a more professional footing and contains the kernel of our endeavours and development and as we now have 7 separate and

diverse operating projects, all with their own requirements and revenue to take them forward, and there will be more, this is mission critical for us.

We recently commenced using the assistance of a local firm of accountants to ensure that everything we do in this sphere is transparent and, as a minimum, meets the standards expected of a high-class charity.

Commentary on the Accounts

The state of the CAS finances has continued to develop in a positive manner and the outlook for the foreseeable future is that this will continue. Our operating incomes continue to grow in line with intentions and the work on securing grants and funding to 'fill the gaps' and facilitate new and existing projects to blossom is going well.

We opened an Online savings account and at the end of our financial year it contained £40k (mostly comprised of grant and funding monies that are earmarked for use in 2022)

During the year the grants we received included: -

Banks Renewables - £2,500

Climate Challenge Action Fund - £22,768

Cycling UK - £8,460

HSBC - £6,000

Paths for All - £36,188

Postcode Lottery Trust - £19,600

REF Grant - £9,999

Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Co-operative - £2,000

CoMoUK - £3,800

National Lottery - £9,851

Scotland Loves Local - £20,000

We also generated £18,600 from our trading activities.

Our main expenditures during the year included: -

Wages & Salaries - £46,000

Rent & Premises cost - £10,800

Capital purchases - £51,600

Depreciation - £15,400

Costs associated with trading activities - £11,200

The net balance relates to grants received in 2021 for activities in 2022, and other trading activities. See accounts for detail.

Going Forward

We continue to aim high in project ambition, operating income growth and funding acquisition.

The next major project to commence will be the 'Retrofit' Strathaven which will focus on re-training and implementation around the skills and information required to place the local housing stock into a much more carbon neutral stance.

Alastair R Brown

Treasurer

25th March 2022